

CLAIMS

1. An optical laminate (optical laminate C) which comprises a layer (layer A) comprising a resin having a negative intrinsic birefringence and at least one layer (layer B) comprising a transparent resin, having substantially no orientation and laminated at least on one face of layer A and satisfies a relation $|Re(A)| > |Re(B)|$, wherein $Re(A)$ and $Re(B)$ represent an in-plane retardation of layer A and an in-plane retardation of layer B, respectively, measured with light having a wavelength of 400 to 700 nm.
2. The optical laminate according to Claim 1, wherein $|Re(B)|$ is 20 nm or smaller.
3. The optical laminate according to any one of Claims 1 and 2, which satisfies a relation $Tg(A) > Tg(B) + 20$, wherein $Tg(A)$ and $Tg(B)$ represent glass transition temperatures in °C of the resin of layer A and the resin of layer B, respectively.
4. The optical laminate according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, which satisfies a relation $Re(450) > Re(550) > Re(650)$, wherein $Re(450)$, $Re(550)$ and $Re(650)$ represent in-plane retardations at wavelengths of 450 nm, 550 nm and 650 nm, respectively.
5. The optical laminate according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, which satisfies a relation $\Sigma nz > \Sigma ny - 0.002$, wherein Σnz represents a refractive

index in a direction of a thickness and Σny and Σnx represent refractive indices in two directions which are perpendicular to the direction of a thickness and perpendicular to each other of optical laminate C measured with light having a wavelength of 550 nm, and Σnx , Σny and Σnz satisfy
5 relations $\Sigma nx < \Sigma ny$ and $\Sigma nx < \Sigma nz$.

6. The optical laminate according to any one of Claims 1 to 5, wherein an unevenness in a thickness of layer A is 3.0% or smaller of an average thickness of layer A.

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7. The optical laminate according to any one of Claims 1 to 6, wherein the resin having a negative intrinsic birefringence is a resin selected from a group consisting of vinyl aromatic polymers, polyacrylonitrile polymers and polymethyl methacrylate polymers.

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8. The optical laminate according to any one of Claims 1 to 7, wherein the resin having a negative intrinsic birefringence is a vinyl aromatic polymer.

20 9. The optical laminate according to any one of Claims 1 to 8, wherein the resin having a negative intrinsic birefringence is a resin selected from a group consisting of polystyrene and copolymers of styrene and maleic anhydride.

25 10. The optical laminate according to any one of Claims 1 to 9, wherein the transparent resin is a resin having an alicyclic structure.

11. The optical laminate according to any one of Claims 1 to 10, wherein
the transparent resin is a norbornene polymer.

5 12. The optical laminate according to any one of Claims 1 to 11, wherein
the transparent resin is a hydrogenation product of a ring-opening
polymer of a norbornene monomer or a hydrogenation product of a
ring-opening copolymer of a norbornene monomer.

10 13. The optical laminate according to any one of Claims 1 to 12, wherein
the transparent resin has a tensile elongation at break of 30% or greater.

14. The optical laminate according to any one of Claims 1 to 13, wherein
the layer comprising a transparent resin and having substantially no
15 orientation (layer B) is laminated on both faces of the layer comprising a
resin having a negative intrinsic birefringence (layer A).

15. The optical laminate according to any one of Claims 1 to 14, wherein
an adhesive layer is disposed between the layer comprising a resin having
20 a negative intrinsic birefringence (layer A) and the layer comprising a
transparent resin and having substantially no orientation (layer B).

16. The optical laminate according to any one of Claims 1 to 15, which
satisfies relations $Tg(A) > Tg(D)$ and $Tg(B) > Tg(D)$, wherein $Tg(D)$
25 represents a glass transition temperature or a softening point in °C of an
adhesive in the adhesive layer.

17. An optical element comprising a laminate of the optical laminate described in any one of Claims 1 to 16 and a polarizer plate.

5 18. A liquid crystal display device which uses at least one sheet of the optical laminate described in any one of Claims 1 to 16.

19. The liquid crystal display device according to Claim 18, wherein a mode of the liquid crystal is an in-plane switching (IPS) mode.